

U.S. Application No.: NEW
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Attorney Docket: 3926.171

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A guiding device (10) for positioning at least one workpiece (12), comprising a workpiece position monitoring device (14), ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the workpiece position monitoring device (14) is ~~designed as~~ a sensor unit (16) for contactless workpiece position monitoring.
2. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the workpiece position monitoring device (14) is additionally ~~designed as~~ a centering and fixing unit.
3. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it is part of a pressing unit or of a bodyspell-welding unit.
4. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sensor unit (16) is an optical sensor unit, in particular an infrared sensor unit.
5. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sensor

unit (16) has a plurality of spaced-apart sensor elements (20).

6. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least two sensor elements (20) arranged in a common plane are provided for workpiece position detection.

7. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 5 ~~or 6~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sensor element (20) is designed as a nondestructively replaceable structural element.

8. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 5 ~~one of claims 5 to 7~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sensor element (20) in each case has an L-shaped workpiece contact side (22) with which a sensor detection line (24) forms a triangle.

9. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 7 ~~either of claims 7 and 8~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sensor element (20) has at least one hardened workpiece contact face (26).

10. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 7 ~~one of claims 7 to 9~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sensor element (20) is a standard element.

11. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sensor

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unit (16) is connected to an electronic data processing device
and/or to a control device.